

1Garth and Marita Batty

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Interviewer: Elaine Carr

Transcriber: Elaine Carr

Elaine Carr (EC): I am here at Garth and Marita Batty's home, I am Elaine Carr and I am here to do their oral history today on August 24, 2006. I am here at their home at 1685 W. 2500 No. in Vernal, Utah. I am excited to do this oral history. I know they have a lot of history of the Vernal area.

EC: First of all, where were you born and when? Tell us who your parents and siblings are.

Garth Batty (GB): I was born March 4, 1928, in Vernal, Utah. My parents were Albert Don Batty and Abbie Lela Preece Batty. I had three brothers, Wayne D. Batty, who is now deceased, Don Linford Batty and Mark Lee Batty. I was the oldest of the four.

I've lived in Vernal all my life except for two missions for the LDS Church and a short time at LDS Business College. I've had an interesting, exciting life. I don't think anyone could have had a better place to grow up, than right here in Vernal as a youth. I lived on a farm, I was able to roam the fields and hills and all of those things.

EC: Mrs. Batty who were your parents?

Marita Batty (MB): I'm Marita Pauline Williams Batty. I was born the 23, December 1928, in Vernal, Utah to Roland Williams and Hilda Ardis Belcher Williams. My mother was born here in Vernal, Utah. My father was born in Mound Valley, Bancock County, Idaho.

EC: And who were your siblings?

MB: My siblings are, the oldest one is Donna B. She was married to Carl Collett, she is now deceased. Then, I was the second one in line. Robert Harvey Williams is the third one, Larry Wayne Williams was the fourth, Myrtle Joleen Freemyer is the fifth, and Roland Dale Williams is my youngest brother.

GB: Roland Dale was killed in an automobile accident when he was seventeen years old.

EC: Where was your home located when you was a child?

GB: We were in the Glines area. I lived there all my life up until after we were married. We lived there several years after we were married, and then moved over here on the north side of the valley.

EC: Marita, where did you live as a child?

MB: I was born here in Vernal, and I lived down in Ashley. Then when I was five years old, we moved to Roosevelt. We lived in Roosevelt for a number of years until my father died, leaving my mother a widow with six children, so we moved back to Vernal. I was ten years old when we moved back to Vernal.

EC: Then did you live in the Ashley area again?

MB: No, we lived down town. We lived in the rock house that was right next to the Seven-Eleven Café and my mother rented different homes here in Vernal. So, we were mostly in the town area. We lived on Main Street about 656 West Main, in that area for a number of years.

EC: What was life like as a child growing up in Vernal?

GB: As I said earlier, I think it was probably the greatest place that a boy could have been raised. We lived on the farm. Like everyone else, we didn't have very much, but we didn't know that. We always had plenty of food and we had clothing to wear, however, I had one pair of shoes and that had to do for work, for school and church, and so I was quite often cleaning shoes after I'd been out to the corrals doing chores.

EC: So, you lived on a farm with a lot of farm animals?

GB: We had a farm and we had many animals. We had cattle, and milk cows. We had pigs, and we had sheep and we had chickens. And of course, I helped take care of all those and feed them. I helped with the farm work. I learned to use a team of horses early. In those days, very few people had tractors. They used horses for their farming and horses were a principle item in getting the farm work done.

Automobiles were coming in to Vernal quite a bit. The roads were terrible because they were dirt and when it would storm, I remember seeing automobiles stuck on the roads because it was just a quagmire; it was so muddy. I'd seen people have to go get farmers to get their team of horses to pull them out, which was kind of interesting. I also remember that in down town Vernal behind the stores, J.C. Penney's and Ashton's and some of the other places that they had hitching posts or rails where people could tie their teams of horses or their saddle horses while they were in town shopping. It was a dual thing back then.

Electricity was just coming into the rural area, and I remember in our home when we got it; we had one light that hung from just a wire with a pull cord on it. We thought that was really something.

EC: Do you want to tell us about your childhood Mrs. Batty?

MB: My younger childhood, of course was spent in Roosevelt. We lived three miles west of Roosevelt out on a farm. My dad, for our lively-hood would buy livestock and then we'd re-sell it. So, we learned to work. I remember, we had a huge garden, and especially the year that my father passed away. We knew how to hoe long rows of vegetables that had weeds in them. We sometimes thought we never would get to the end of em'. But, that was fun days. I remember we used to plant popcorn and then we'd husk or shell it. It was the black and the white popcorn. It

was always a fun time to get around the kitchen stove in the winter and pop this popcorn in a metal popcorn popper.

Of course, we didn't have electricity either. I remember we had the outside toilets and at one time we got a WPA toilet and I guess that was an exciting time for our family. But, it was a fun time for all of us. We just learned to work, I guess this is where I learned to work, because we had to work. If we ever had any bananas or anything, it was a special treat, or an orange, it was just something that we didn't hardly ever have.

I remember we would go swimming in the canal out in front of our place, and there was a gulch behind our house. In the winter we'd go down there and take our sleigh and go sleigh riding, or ice skating, one or the other. But, it was a fun time. We had good neighbors. Then neighbor kids all got together and had fun times. We'd go on picnics.

And I guess one of the highlights or celebrations that we enjoyed was always going to the Ute Powwow celebration' they had over at Ft. Duchesne. That was always fun.

EC: Since you mentioned that, how did they differ then, than they do now?

MB: Well, you know we've talked about going over again, because I haven't been over since we moved from there. But, it was a big time for us, we would go over and maybe spend a day or two. I think we would camp out even. We would mix with the Indians and it was just a fun time to see this celebration. And then the UBIC at Ft. Duchesne too. This was the two things that we always looked forward to, is to go to these celebrations. We would go and camp out and stay two or three days, and that was one of our highlights.

A lot of times we would go to our church meetings and then sometimes we would roller skate back home. We'd take our roller skates with us and we'd roller skate out three miles to our home. That was always fun. I remember one time, our Sunday School class was going on a picnic, and I guess I got the date wrong, and went in there, and my parents had given me five cents to buy some treats. When I got there, they'd already gone and I still remember that. But, we had some fun times. Then, later, because it was three miles from town, and my mother held Primary in our home. We would put cream cans around and then we would put planks around on them, because we didn't have a lot of chairs around in the kitchen area. Sometimes there would be about thirty-five boys and girls. And, she got permission to have Primary in our home. We had that for a number of years.

GB: I went to school in the first grade in the old Glines school, only one year and then they tore it down. But, it had a pot bellied stove, of course there was no running water, and it had a barrel of water up to the front of the room, and one dipper. If you were thirsty, you'd just go dip some water out and drink it. Everyone drank out of the same dipper. It was quite a thing. Then, they tore it down and I was transferred to Maeser School. I went through the eighth grade there. We had some great times.

As I got a little older, especially during World War II, I hunted pheasants a lot and there were an abundance of pheasants in the valley at that time. You could always get pheasants. Some of the best experiences I had was when either my dad or my uncle would take me fishing. I learned to love to fish at an early age.

EC: Where did you fish then?

GB: Then, we fished on the North and the South Fork of the Ashley on Trout Creek, East Park Reservoir, down in Red Pine Setting, which is the Ashley Creek. Later, over in Jones Hole. And, sometimes over on Carter Creek or Cart Creek, both. There weren't as many places to fish as we have now. So, that was a great event. But, I had a full life; it was fun.

We worked hard. We were taught to work and I'm grateful for that. Sometimes we'd get up at four o'clock in the morning and hitch the team up and go out to the high-line. My brother and I would load a load of hay and bring it in to feed the cattle. My dad had a ranch on the high-line and we'd bring the hay down to feed the cattle and other animals. And, then we'd go to school after that, so, sometimes it was a long day.

They were also homesteading on Diamond Mountain, and in my early years we lived on the mountain during the summer. I really loved that. I developed a great love for the mountains and especially that old homestead. They had a one room log cabin, but gosh I thought I was in heaven. It was great.

EC: Do you remember where you went to school Mrs. Batty?

MB: I went to elementary school in Roosevelt until we moved over here. I remember when we moved over I was in the fifth grade and Blain Lee was my teacher. He was so kind to me. You know, I was so timid and so bashful, and he was so kind to me. And, there I developed some really sweet friends. There were seven of us girls, I think in the fifth and the sixth grade. Arthur Manwaring, I believe was my sixth grade teacher. But anyway, there were seven of us girls and we went clear through the fifth grade on up to high school. This was a sweet relationship that we had with seven of us girls.

Also, as I was growing up, and of course my mother being a widow, we all had to work. We had to tend children, we'd clean houses, I imagine I was eleven, twelve, thirteen, when I started to tend children. I remember we would maybe make twenty-five cents for two or three hours tending children. Then as I got older, I started helping women do some ironing in their home and I cleaned homes. We lived right next to, it was called the Grub Box or the Pig Stand, and Uncle Warren owned that, and we also worked there and did odd jobs there. It was a time that we really, if we wanted to have any spending money we had to work for it. My mother was working and we all worked as soon as we were able to get out and work. But, it was a happy life. We knew how to work, and I'm grateful to this day that I did learn how to work and I still like to work. But, I have some very fond memories of growing up and going to school and participating in everything.

EC: Which school did you go to when you moved to Vernal?

MB: Central School. Then we just had the high school, we didn't have a junior high at that time. Kind of where the swimming pool is now, that was the high school in that area. All of our friends were good clean people, so we didn't have the problems that our young people have now. So, it was a beautiful life. We look back and think, we didn't have much, but we had a lot of values at that time.

EC: Do you remember your teachers Mr. Batty in elementary?

GB: I had a Miss Aycock, I don't know what her first name was, she was a sister to Ken Aycock. She was a good teacher; that was first grade. Second grade, Stella Richards, she was not married

but she was an excellent teacher. In the third grade I can't remember, the fourth grade was Grace Madsen, fifth was Virginia Noel. Sixth was Naomi Tipton. Seventh was Clark Larsen and eighth was Tom Caldwell.

I might tell you an interesting experience I had. I think I was in the third grade and money was scarce, we never really had any money as kids. I was out chores one morning and my dad was with me and I said, "I sure wish I had a nickel so I can buy some candy," and he didn't say a word. We finished the chores, went to the house, and he went in the other room and came out and gave me a nickel. And a nickel looked like a hundred dollars then. So I went to school and I guess I told everybody I had a nickel, I had more friends than you could imagine. We walked over to the Maeser store. It was operated by an English woman named Sarah Rudge, and incidentally, she was a very poor driver, she was known and seen to drive on the wrong side of the street very often, but, she was quite a great lady. So, we used to get as much as five and ten pieces of candy for a penny so I had a whole sack full of candy and a whole group of friends that day.

One more experience that happened in the eighth grade. I'm not too proud of this one. I went to school one morning and Bill McKee came and he had a grandfather who had been very ill and on his death bed for some time and had passed away. Apparently he had some medication, one of them was a high powered laxative, and it was candy coated. So, Bill brought them to school and he said, "Hey, Garth! Do you want some candy?" And, I looked at it and I said, "No!" I didn't want any, I didn't think it was candy. But we had one boy there that they didn't have much, his mother was a widow. His name was Wilson Kurtz, and he came, and I said, "Wills' do you want some candy?" "Oh, yeah, yeah." He ate three or four of those just before the class started. About twenty minutes the class started and he went up to Mr. Caldwell and said, "Mr. Caldwell, may I go to the lavatory." And he said, "You may not! You should have done that before class started." He just went on past him and went down, and he passed out down there. I didn't know that at the time, but I knew after he'd taken them what it was. And so I thought I'd probably killed him, and I didn't know too much about the consequences of murder, but I was pretty worried. We finally saw him and he was so sick I think he had to go home and he didn't come the school the next day. But it was a great lesson to me, it really was.

EC: Sometimes lessons have to be learned before we realize what we're doing. Do you have any memories about special friends growing up? You said you had seven girls. Are those local people that are maybe still here?

MB: Yes, they're still here. There's two of them still living in Vernal, Marva Walker Lent and Pat Lewis Stewart. One of them has passed away, Audrie Jones Udall. I might mention at this time, her father was bishop and this was a place we always congregated, was at their home and it was just a delightful place to be. They always fed us, and we'd go there and sing and play games and do all of these things. And then there was Lucy and Rachel Calder, who were twins. That was Leo and Lucille Calders daughters. Lucy has passed away, but Rachel lives in Orem. Then there was Ruth Pope. This is Jeff Magee's mother that lives right back here, she was one of our close friends. Dorothy Ann Whitbeck, and she lives back east. Anyway, we had a lot of fun. We had a group of boys our same age and we just partied and had a lot of fun together, and of course we dated and different things. It was fun years.

EC: Today, kids say, I'm bored, there's nothing to do, but back then there was just little simple games and activities. Do you remember any fun things that you did on your spare time besides work? Of course, it sounds like you enjoyed working.

GB: Well, we did. We didn't even know what television was. They finally got a radio, and it was interesting to hear the news when the war started in Europe before the United States got into it. I remember December 7, 1941 was a Sunday. I'd been to church and in the afternoon I'd gone off roaming around the fields which I loved to do. I came back in and the folks had the radio on and the news of the attack on Pearl Harbor was on. That was a changing point in everything. It changed the economy. There had been a depression prior to that and a drought. I remember my uncle during the drought and the depression gathering tumble weeds and then buying sorghum syrup up out of the South to put on it to feed his cattle. I remember my dad worked for the government for a while and what they did was just take peoples livestock because there was no feed for them and take them out in the hills and kill them. That was really a sad thing. I remember he brought a veal home. They could have any of the meat they wanted, but we had no refrigeration, and ate what you could eat fresh, and this was in the summer time. My mother bottled the rest of it in order to preserve it. As far as economic times it was hard. But, this all changed with the war. As small as Vernal was, there were many, many, many of our people went in the military. And as the war progressed later, and we were in the grocery store and I was working there. I remember, the telegrams were coming into the Vernal Drug of either "We regret to inform you that your son was either killed in action or missing in action." Rice Cooper, who operated the Vernal Drug was the one who would deliver those. I was there when they delivered a telegram to my Aunt Dora Freestone advising them that their son, Clyde Thomas Freestone was missing in action over in Germany. He was on a bomber. Well, he survived, but they didn't know that at the time. He was taken prisoner of war and spent time in a German Prison Camp and then, of course ultimately they found out he was still alive. Those are some of the things I remember.

People back in the thirties and even into the forties had time to stop and visit. Like I said, they didn't have anything. But, I'd see some of the neighbors come by and stop and visit with dad, or the women would come visit with mother and I'd remember they'd get their pocket knives out and whittle and visit for awhile. They just didn't seem pushed and in such a rush as we are now. As I said, it was just a wonderful place to be. It almost saddens me to see some of the old haunts that I used to visit so often, now rural areas have homes and it's just not like it was then of course. That's progress I guess.

EC: I know, I always say I wish I would have lived sooner. I could have handled the hard work more than the stress of today.

GB: You want to enjoy what you got now too. And we worked hard, but people were more neighborly and you didn't worry about locking your house or things up. There wasn't much of that type of thing that went on. In so many cases a persons word was their bond. It was just as sacred as if they had signed a legal document. Things have really changed that way.

EC: Do you want to add anything Mrs. Batty?

MB: I can think of one of our entertainments, this group of girls, I believe it was Sunday afternoon, and the Vernal Drug had their fountain opened. This was a treat for us to go down and get a drink. Mine was a Cherry Ironport. I don't know if they even make that anymore. But anyway, this was a treat for us. We were too young to have cars and our friends didn't have cars, once in awhile one of them would get to take their parents car, but we didn't have any vehicles or any transportation to go very many places. On Sunday afternoon a lot of times, we lived on Main Street, 756 West Main, and it was just a treat to put our chairs out on the lawn and our quilts and just watch the people go by. Us girls would, if one of the girls had a car, their parents car, we would just park there on Main Street and watch the people go by. We wouldn't go up and down like they do now, but we'd just watch the people go by and that was just what we did. We didn't have a lot of entertainment, we didn't have TV or any of these other things. But, I think our Church was very important to us at this time. This is something that we participated in and was involved in a lot, and that was a big thing. Of course, our church had a lot of fun activities for the young people.

EC: What about in high school, what are some things you done in high school?

MB: Well, I was really involved in high school. I was voted into the Pep Club and that was always a fun thing. I was Vice President of our class and that was really fun. I took a part in the Jr. Prom; I was on the committee and on the graduating committee and things like that. We didn't have big classes; I think our class was about eighty-nine or ninety pupils. But, it was fun, I really got involved in a lot of fun activities and dates to a lot of the dances and things, so I enjoyed school. I participated in school in learning. I excelled in my classes and things. I remember LeRoy Richens, I used to sit by his desk and he'd have me mark the roll and the kids would tease me. They'd say, "You're just his pet." So, as I remember looking back, some of the teachers, I don't know maybe it was because I didn't have a father, but as I remember the teachers were very kind to me and very thoughtful. I had some good rapport with the teachers.

EC: Can you tell me about high school Mr. Batty?

GB: One thing I wanted to say, things that were really important and a big event when I was young, one of them was, my mother would just fix a picnic and we would go out in the orchard and have a picnic away from the house. That was a big deal. To go to the mountain or to go fishing would be like a trip to Disney Land now. I mean, that's what it meant to us.

MB: Let me just mention one thing. As a young girl, of course my mother had a truck and we would all get loaded up in that truck, family, neighbor kids, and she'd take us up to Doc's Beach and we would roller skate. That was one thing that we had, and it was a fun time. We had a lot of activities like that, we didn't have all these other things that come in and fill our life, but we did find a lot of fun activities, but that was one of them. We went on picnics and enjoyed it. We went down to the city park. They used to have on Sunday afternoon different groups come in and participate, bands, or choral groups or something, and spend some time and go down and watch them.

GB: You can think of all kinds of things. I used to roller skate up there too. I was just a kid, and you'd roller skate with anyone, but there was a single woman, she was older, her name was Bea

Stringham. She was a sister to Bry Stringham. I was skating with her, she was probably twice my age or more, and we were going around and we fell down, and I remember how embarrassed she was, a lot more than I was even.

You asked me about high school.

EC: Activities or clubs or sports.

GB: I didn't take the interest in school that I should of done. I got good grades when I applied myself, but I couldn't have cared less about any of the clubs or activities that way. That's just the way I was. I remember, she mentioned LeRoy Richens. He was an excellent teacher. I was in his class. It was a science class I believe, and I was sitting clear in the back of the class and two or three of my friends were with us and we sat back there and played instead of studied. We had a test one day. In those days, they graded tests by percentage, you got twenty percent or eighty percent or hundred percent. I got twenty-two percent on the test. Real proud of that. He got me by the nape of the neck and he said, "Garth" he says, "You can do a lot better than that." He said, "I taught your mother." And he said, "I know you can." And so he sat me up by his desk. His desk was here, (points to a place) and he put me right here. The next test I got ninety-eight percent. But, I'm grateful to him for what he did. I needed to be straightened out. I had a lot of fun. I was on graduation committee. I didn't think school would ever get over, and I thought it was going to be heaven because I would have more time to fish and hunt if I had any spare time. I was really a fanatic at that. But, I had a good high school. But, of course we were there during the war years and it was a great concern all the time because everyone had close relatives that were in the combat zones it seemed like. Everyone was always concerned.

EC: What did you do after graduation?

GB and MB: (Simultaneously laughed) Got married.

GB: Well, not right after graduation.

MB: Before graduation, I was working down to Ashley Valley Market as a clerk, what ever, I did most anything. Then, I was also dating Garth. He worked for his dad and Paul Batty, they owned it. But, anyway I was working down there and we were dating and all my friends were going to college and I just thought that's the thing I needed to do so anyway I went one quarter to BYU. I decided I was in love and needed to come home and get married. So, that's kind of what I did. Garth came out to see me once and we decided to set a date for our marriage. I didn't stay out there very long because my interest weren't out there. But it was a fun time. It was a good experience for me to go to the Y for one quarter.

GB: It was. We'd been going together and we'd talked about marriage, and we were just kids. And she said, "Well, I'm going to go to school and find out what I want to do." I thought that's the end of that, so, I just kind of dropped it. I didn't write to her or anything. One day I got a letter from her and she said, "Well, if you don't want to write to me, you don't have to." So, I almost broke my neck getting out to see her. We were married the following March.

The way we met, and the first time I remember her, there was a dance down at the high school in the gymnasium. I asked her to dance with me, but I didn't know who she was and I didn't dare ask her. So, we danced and I just didn't know who I'd danced with. Then later, probably a year later, I was kneeling down to get into my locker after school and I was tapped on the shoulder and I looked up and it was her, but I didn't know her. I didn't know who she was. She said, "Would you go to the girls' dance with me." I just said, "yes!" Then I had to go ask one of her friends, I said, "Who was that girl that ask me to go to the dance?" And, they told me. My friends teased me so much over that I don't think I went with her again for about two or three years. So, maybe it was a good thing because we may have broken up. But the way it worked out was fine.

EC: Do you have any fun courtship dating stories?

GB: You might want to tell her it was more important for me to go fishing.

MB: Well yeah, we dated and I told him his first love was fishing, and that's the way I felt. If there was a holiday or anything he had a trip planned to go fishing. It was just that way. One time, it was the Fourth of July, and he said to me, "What are you going to do on the Fourth?" In order to not feel dumb I just said, "I'm going to the mountain with my sister and her husband." And he said, "Okay, I'm going fishing." And I said, "Okay." Well then Sterling Colton came along. He was one of my class mates and he later became our Mission President up in Canada. Anyway, he came a long and he said, "Some of us are going over to Steamboat Springs and go swimming and take a lunch. My mother's going to pack a lunch, would you come and go with me?" And I said, "Well sure!" So anyway, I thought I'll just show Garth Batty, I don't have to stay home. So, we went over and had a fun time. Then, we came back to the dance here in Vernal. Of course, some of his buddies were there. They couldn't wait to get home to tell Garth that I was there. We didn't have any promises or anything. We just dated quite a bit. But, his buddies couldn't wait to tell him I was there with Sterling Colton to the dance. Well, the next day we came back to work and he was pretty mad.

GB: I was just a fool.

MB: Anyway, we kind of didn't see each other for awhile. Then we got back together again. He did like to fish. I just felt like that was a lot more important than I was, you know.

EC: That's a pretty wholesome activity though, especially now.

GB: Well it is.

EC: So, when did you get married?

MB: We got married March 31, 1948 in the Salt Lake Temple. Of course my mother, I don't know if she even had a car then, but we took the bus out, my mother and I. He came out with his parents and we used their car to go on our honeymoon. They took his Uncle Paul Batty's car back to Vernal. After we were married we went to the Doll House, which isn't out there anymore, and had our wedding breakfast. We went to Boulder City, Nevada, down by Boulder Dam and spent five days there. We couldn't stay an extra day or two because Garth had to get

home to go to work. We kind of had to cut our honeymoon short, but we had a good honeymoon. Garth's folks had been down there. Garth's dad had had asthma all his life and so they had spent one or two winters down there and just told us what a beautiful place it was. So we decided that's where we wanted to go on our honeymoon.

GB: My mother-in-law called me a workaholic. And she was one to be talking, because that's all that poor woman did was work. It's wonderful to be able to work. I see young people today and they don't even know how, a lot of them. I love to work. If I don't feel like I've accomplished something all most every day, then I don't feel good, even now.

EC: I think people used to work harder, but then, it was just the way of life.

MB: We had to.

GB: Yeah, it was a way of life, we had to do it. It was a matter of survival. It was a good way, really.

EC: You started having children, can you tell me your children's names?

MB: DeArmon was our first child, and he was born July 9, 1949. He was the oldest, then we had a daughter Mischel, born Auugust 23, 1952. She lives back in Minneapolis right now. She's a Clinical Psychologist and she was born August the 23rd. Then Terrance was born January 2, 1956. Then Kyle, who lives here in Vernal was born December 5, 1958. Aleisha was born July 4, 1965. We have five children, three boys and two girls. The three boys live here and Aleisha lives down in Parawan and Mischel lives back in Minneapolis.

EC: Where did you live when you were having a family?

MB: When we first got married, Garth's folks had a basement, of course you don't have any money and they were trying to be helpful to us. We had some cupboards built in that basement. It was two rooms and we lived in that basement for awhile. DeArmon was a baby when we lived there. Then we built a home right across from the Glines Ward Chapel north across the highway. Aleisha and Terrance and Kyle, we lived there when they were born. Then we moved over to 1696 West 1500 South around the corner.

GB: We built a home there in 1958.

MB: Then, we built this home in 1975 and we've lived here ever since. We've been here a little over thirty years. So that's our homes where we've lived. Now this home is a little bit big for us but.

EC: Yeah, but your family just gets bigger and bigger.

MB: And it's nice when the family does come over. We have our three children here, sometimes we don't have too many families come. We have twenty-two grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

EC: Wow! Do you have special memories, traditions, or activities when your children were young.

MB: Well, I think some of our special activities was that we first we had a camper and we took them on trips and then we had a motor home built, we bought a big motor home, we had that. We took trips with our kids. We'd go to Disney Land and we went to the mountains a lot.

GB: We went to San Diego.

MB: California and Tijuana Mexico.

GB: Yellowstone Park. We did a lot of things with our family and we camped a lot on the mountain with them.

MB: Yeah, we camped a lot.

GB: We loved to camp.

MB: Later on we built a cabin up on Diamond Mountain and that was a fun place for a lot of our activities. In fact, we had some of our Batty reunions up there. Then, we later sold that and bought a cabin up at Deer Lodge from Paul and Isabel Batty. We had that about twelve years. That was a fun place for us to get together as a family.

GB: We sold it just before we went on our mission to Canada.

MB: We had a lot of fun memories up there because our children would come and Garth had a fishing boat and another boat and he would take them fishing some place and then we'd come back and stay there. We did a lot of things with our family.

EC: Mr. Batty, do you have anything to add?

GB: We enjoyed our kids. I think that we actually kind of felt like we were just one with them. Actually I guess we were, especially me, I had a lot of growing up to do and a lot of things to learn. I didn't have any sisters so, just to have a wife was a new experience for me. But, we've had a good marriage and had a good life. We were young, I was twenty and she was nineteen. We had some people tell us that we'd never make it in our marriage. But we didn't have anything else in mind.

MB: Well, we've been married fifty-eight years, going on fifty-nine, so we made it.

EC: That's a long time.

MB: It is a long time.

GB: Yes it is.

EC: Well and I think people did get married right out of school more then, than they do now. Was there any challenges you faced, it sounds like things went pretty well for you.

GB: When we first started out in business we both worked and we'd take the young kids with us because we had to especially when we went into what was then Searle Electric on Main Street. That was in 1958. We had to finance it and we had that debt to pay off. It was nothing to put in twelve or fourteen hour days. I remember one period of time that I worked for thirty days except for Sundays without a day off. She was right there by my side. We'd never made it if it hadn't been for her and she knew how to work and she knew how to meet the public so we got along well. I think that we had some real special help from the Lord through it all. But, we've had a good life.

EC: What was Vernal like then? What was some of the businesses that was on that block? It seemed like everything was right there and now it's all spread out.

GB: Well yes there were. There was J.C. Penney's on the corner which is no longer there. Thornes Studio, Western Auto, Utah Power and Light, Searle Electric, The Variety Store, the café, I can't remember what they called it, the café's still there but it's a different name now. Then on up the post office. And on the other side Ashton Brothers, I don't remember if the Rexall Drug was still there. There was a clothing store on the other side, the Bank of Vernal then, is now Zions Bank.

MB: The Gardiner Jewelry right in there.

GB: There was a dress shop right there on Main Street. Most of those aren't there anymore.

MB: Was the Grill Café right there by the Bank of Vernal? Was that the Grill Café or was it down further?

GB: It was up I think. On down of course was the Uintah State Bank, which became First Security, and the Vernal Drug.

MB: The Vogue Theater.

GB: It was OP Skaggs, the Vogue Theater, and now it's a floral place. And then the café, the Seven Eleven, which was the Pig Stand. Back when we were kids you could buy a hamburger for five cents, candy bars were a nickel, things like that. If you had a quarter you had plenty of money and if you had a dollar you could just really splurge. But, yes it's changed and of course businesses have moved out and away where they're more accessible.

We watched the oil business right from the forties clear through till now. It would run a high, everything just booming and then a bust thing. Then it goes through a period of time when it wasn't and then back to a boom and it's just been that way ever since I can remember. I remember one thing as a boy when I was working with my dad in the grocery store. They were making what was good money in the oil field and I told him, I said, "I want to go to the oil field." He said, "Well son, you can do what you want to." but he said, "If you'll just stay here

with me," He said, "You may not make as much money now but," He said, "You go to the oil field and they'll be transferring you all over everywhere." and he said, "You won't have your roots down anywhere." And he said, "I'll promise you that if you'll just stay in business and stay with it, that you'll wind up better off than you would if you went to the oil field." And he was right in that.

The war was still going when we were in high school, and the last year we were there it was over. But, they were still drafting people. When I turned seventeen, I could have gotten into the navy if he would have signed for me. And I went and asked him to sign for me and he said, "No way!" He said, "I've got two brother-in-laws and several nephews in the combat zone," and he said, "I will not sign for you." I am so grateful that he didn't. And then they stopped the draft just right about the time I got out of high school. Some of my friends that were in the same grade and just a few months older were drafted and went into the military. I never did try to get out of it. They called me up for an interview after we were married and had our first child and wanted to know what my status was and I told them. That's when the Korean Conflict was on. They reclassified me and that was the last of the military for me, but, I never did try to get out of it. I would have gone.

EC: You were just a little bit in the wrong time.

GB: The right time to stay out of it.

EC: Yeah!

MB: You might tell them a little bit about during the war; the things that were rationed and the things that you could not get, and you had to go down to, what was the office called?

GB: It was the OPA.

MB: OPA, where you could go get certain stamps. You couldn't go just buy a pair of shoes. You had to have a stamp for it, gas, mayonnaise, bacon, gum, sugar.

GB: All kinds of things. You had so many ration stamps and it was really a pain for the store keeper because they had to keep track of all that and they had to reconcile the stamps that they had with what merchandise they had had. Another interesting thing, it was prohibited to sell the Indians alcohol, and vanilla had alcohol in it. I remember, we didn't know that and the Indians would come in and buy that vanilla and they drank it. We found out we were in violation. But, it was hard to say, "I'll sell vanilla to you, but I can't to you." It was discrimination. That was an interesting thing. But, this rationing was really something. And gasoline... The farmers, those on the farm were allowed more gasoline to run their farm machinery with than regular people. It was a rare thing to get to go to Salt Lake or something, because you just didn't have enough gas.

MB: Well it was interesting where he was in the store at that time and I was working there, but when you'd get a load of freight in if you got salad dressing, or butter, or sugar, or gum, or some of these things, you couldn't always get them you know, and when they come in, boy would you have business. People would bring their stamps in and get them.

GB: Well, and they didn't have to have stamps to get gum or candy, but you just couldn't get it. It just wasn't available.

MB: We got it sometimes.

GB: But, it was prorated out. Everything went to the war effort. They had salvage drives for junk metal. They gathered old paper, newspaper. There were all kinds of things that went on then. And people were very patriotic during World War II. They felt that they were involved in a cause that was just and had to be resolved. I remember very distinctly when Japan surrendered. They had a big celebration and they roped off South Vernal Avenue, that one block. They had a band there and they were dancing. People just went crazy. You've seen pictures of New York and all these other places when the war ended but we had our celebration here. Everybody just felt like, what a relief it was. There were so many of our young men though that didn't come home. It seems like those telegrams were coming in daily. I remember my dad going over to see Mrs. Hazelbush when they got the telegram that her son had been killed. They operated what is now the Antlers Motel. It was just so sad. Parents just lived under tension all the time that had sons in and wives that did, and brother and sisters that did.

EC: That was a hard time in our country.

MB: It was.

GB: It totally changed the economy and everything from that point on. It was a defining point. They went on to the war footing, and then the war production. We had several people that went from here to California and some of the other defense plants to work in those plants. And, they made a lot more money than they could have made here or they'd ever made before in their lives. We've also seen things inflate, everything. As I said five cents for a hamburger, now you can pay five to seven dollars for one depending what you get. So, the monetary system is no where near the same. It started to inflate gradually after that war started. Back then a pickup truck cost before the war, something like six hundred dollars. I remember after the war, the first pickup we bought was a Chevrolet and I know exactly the figure tax and all, it was \$1767. 90. And now you pay forty thousand dollars for a good pickup. So, anyway the economic thing has changed.

EC: Can you tell me a little bit more about your business and when you started?

GB: Well, yes, I had a little business training. I took it in high school and had a little bit of college. I worked in the grocery store with my dad. He had bought into that store just before the war started.

EC: And what did you say was the name of that store?

GB: It was Ashley Valley Market and it sat right there on fifth west and main where what was the Wired Cow is now. Right there.

MB: Kitty corner across from Basin Sports, on that corner, where the Maverick was.

GB: Yeah, that's where we were. Dad arranged for us to buy an interest in that and we had an interest in it when we were first married. That was one reason I wanted to get back I guess from the honeymoon. But, we worked there for a time and then we needed to modernize because there was competition coming in. So, we got out of that and I worked for an insurance agency for a few months. Then came an opportunity to buy into Searle Electric, into full partnership. That's when she and I worked together. We worked and ultimately paid off our obligation there and we bought the partner out, or DeArmon did and he came in. He went to college and had a degree in business. He got an offer to go with K-Mart and Ford Motor Company, and somebody else, but he said, "I want to come home if I can." He bought that, and just took it from there.

We moved from Main Street to North Vernal Avenue where Kyle has the Galleries now. Then, we moved up near fifth west where the motel was. In the meantime we also bought Echo Park Motel from my uncle and we operated it for eight or ten years. Then we tore it down and we built that store there where it is now. That's pretty much how we got into business and what we did. Our three boys followed that line. Terrance is with Sears, Kyle is with Galleries and DeArmon with Basin Sports.

MB: DeArmon bought us out before we went on our mission to Salt Lake.

GB: We filled two missions for the church. Fifteen months in the Salt Lake Family History Mission and eighteen months in the Canada, Vancouver Mission in British Columbia.

EC: This Searle Electric, when did you change it to Basin Sports?

GB: We changed it to that before we ever moved from Main Street in about 1974 or 1975. We changed it to Basin Sports. We called it Basin Sports and Electric. Then we moved down on North Vernal Avenue and we had a Wholesale Electric Company incorporated into that on North Vernal Avenue. Then, we moved over and called it Basin Wholesale Electric. And we sold that to Consolidated Electrical Distributors. We sold that business off, the electric part. We left the light fixtures and what not on North Vernal Avenue and built the store up on Main Street. It's just strictly sporting goods mostly and related items. We were still involved in it when we moved up there but we sold it. We knew that it was better if he wanted to buy it to not have partnerships, and he wanted to buy it. So we worked out an arrangement and he bought it and paid us off.

EC: Do you remember any events taking place in Vernal that was important to the city of Vernal and the surrounding areas? Any events that took place, or things that progressed this area?

GB: Well, yes I do. I remember when they announced the construction of these dams, Steinaker Reservoir, Redfleet and Flaming Gorge Dam. It caused a lot of excitement and had significant impact on the economy in Vernal. There was a lot of activity with relation to that. I remember that. That was one of the biggest items. Also, the Stauffer Chemical up here. What did they call it?

MB: Well, it was San Francisco Chemical.

GB: But, I remember when they started. That was a big boost to the economy. A lot of our residents worked at the Bonanza Mines, especially back in the forties and probably in the thirties.

I know when we got in that grocery store there were a lot of people working at the mines. It was also part of the economy. This is not really prime farming agricultural, the seasons too short I think. One thing I will say that I learned being raised on a farm, I was grateful for what I learned and all but I knew for sure I did not want to be in the livestock or farm business. I knew that. It had to be something else. And it did, it worked out to be something else. My brothers, two of them, that's what they did and they loved it, but I was not adapted to it myself. I could tell the cows a part because they were different colors, most of them. Dad had sheep and they all looked like sheep to me. But, he knew everyone of them. He couldn't understand why I didn't, but they looked all the same to me, so I really wasn't adapted to it. But we've had a good life. We've had a happy life. We've had an active life in the church.

EC: Can you tell me about your activities, community and church activities that you were involved in? Tell us about the mission and I know you've served in the Stake Presidency and Bishop.

MB: Well, we haven't done a lot of community work. I have been active in the school functions. I was president of the PTA at Ashley Elementary for a couple of years. And been active when the kids were in school in PTA and in the room functions and things like that. As far as really doing any community activity, we haven't, but we've been very active in our church.

GB: It seems like we were so busy in our business and church activities. I started out, one of my earliest callings was a scout master and I served in that capacity for a few years. Then I was called to be superintendent of the Sunday School for a few years. Then I was called to be a counselor in the Bishopric in the Glines Ward. Then, from being a counselor I was called to serve as a Bishop of the Glines Ward. After thirty-two months, the wards were divided and we were then in Vernal Seventh Ward and I was called to be the Bishop of Vernal Seventh Ward. I was the first Bishop of that ward. And, after that I was called to serve on the Stake High Council. From the Stake High Council I was called to serve as the First Counselor in the Stake Presidency. After that I taught Sunday School classes and different activities. Then we were called to serve in the Family History Mission in Salt Lake City. We had a fantastic experience there, loved it, came home and we were invited to come to Canada to serve with the mission office staff. She would be the mission secretary and I would be the financial secretary and the fleet advisor. We had sixty-two cars in the fleet. We loved it up there. I think that we worked harder than we did in our own business. A lot of times we would go in on Saturday in order to keep the work out for a few hours. Even sometimes on Sunday afternoon in the mission office. I wouldn't take any price for those experiences. You could stack this room full of thousand dollar bills and say, "These are all yours, but forfeit the mission experience." I'll take the Mission.

EC: It sounds like it must have been pretty wonderful.

GB: I would recommend it to anyone. We thoroughly enjoyed it.

MB: Right after we were married they called me to be secretary of Vernal Third Ward of the Sunday School. I was the second secretary, I had been called to that position because the ward hadn't been developed very long. Then, I taught Primary. Then, I was called to be on the Stake Primary Board with Marcel Siddoway. I was there probably, I don't know, a long time. I figured

I was in Primary for about twenty-five years. Then, when they came and called me to be on the Stake Relief Society Board, I cried, because I just said, "I just can't do it, Primary is my love." But Garth said, "Well, it's not where you're called, it's how you serve." So, anyway I went into Relief Society and I've probably been there ever since. Of course I did teach Primary again over here. Then I was called to be a counselor to Gay Johnson in the Stake Relief Society Presidency. After she was released, I was called to be a Stake Relief Society President in Ashley Stake. Then the two Stakes were formed and I was the first Relief Society President up in the Maeser Stake. I served there for five years. Then I taught Primary over here again. I've been a Visiting Teacher for all my married life. Now we're doing extracting, we really enjoy that. We've tried to serve in the calls we have been called to serve in. So, it's been a great blessing to us to be of service in our wards or where ever. I've loved the work in Relief Society. We've had great events and a lot of things going on. Then I served as a Relief Society President in the ward and I've served as Counselors in Primary and Counselors in the Ward Relief Society Presidency. We kind of just served all over. The only organization I haven't served in is the Young Womens. Isn't that something. I've served in Primary and Relief Society and Sunday School but I've never had the opportunity to serve in Young Womens. But, it's been great, I've loved it.

GB: I did have one calling that I didn't mention. It was unofficial. I was the third counselor in the Stake Relief Society Presidency with no authority. I was all the time helping move chairs or typing things. One day she left me some typing to do for the Relief Society. So, I did it and then I just made out a bill for eighteen dollars. So, I put the typing and the bill, and she was gone. I came back in the house and there was the bill with eighteen dollars. I felt about an inch tall. But, I've had a great sense of humor and I think that helps keep us going though.

EC: I was going to ask you what your fondest memories are but I can tell your missions were one of them.

MB: Oh, it was.

GB: It was among the greatest..

MB: Well, you know, people have asked us which mission was the best mission. And we just can't say because we worked with the young elders and the young sisters up there and they were so delightful. It was just a great experience. To work up there in the mission office, and just see how dedicated those young people are. Then in this Family History Mission, we just had some beautiful experiences there. Not only the mission itself but being involved in different activities, on our family home evening night. We did some wonderful things with a group of missionaries there and we formed some very beautiful friendships through that. So, I think both missions, they were just as different as they could be, but we really enjoyed both of them.

GB: One of my other fondest memories was when we were going together and in our early marriage. That was one of my fondest memories. Then with our activities with our family. I think those are the fondest memories.

Back before marriage, the things that we did in my home, not just the work but, I know some time dad would say if we'd get the hay in and get all caught up, why we'll go fishing. We would work like everything and get it done and then go. But it was great, I mean it didn't take a whole

lot, we weren't bored about anything. We would play games at night and mother would pop corn. One fond memory that I have, is before we had electricity, was the lanterns. There was something about that, just really appealed to me. Just having the kerosene lanterns, I loved it.

MB: We say our missions were great, and they were but like Garth mentioned, our family we've had good fun times with them and had a lot of fond memories of trips and things we have done in our family home evenings. The things that happened in our family. We just got two grandsons that got their mission call and that's exciting for us. And we've got a grandson on a mission and two more going and so these all wonderful spiritual memories that we have. We maybe got two more grandsons that will fill missions hopefully. We've more granddaughters in our family than we have grandsons, so we're grateful for these that are going on missions and that's special.

GB: In summing it up, I would say, ultimately my fondest memory is my whole life. Everything.

EC: You've had a good life?

GB: Oh, yeah! I have, I've had an interesting life, and happy life, and I've had a lot of adventures. I've gotten older and I'm more cautious than I used to be. I didn't used to be afraid of anything. I'd go on the ocean in a boat when it was utter stupidity and could have lost our lives, things like that. But, my whole life is just my fond memory, and my wife. She's been a fantastic companion. She's had to be to put up with me.

MB: He hasn't been hard to put up with, but he's loved his fishing and it's been a good out-let for him. So, it's all right now.

GB: I've discovered something else since we got back from Canada. I like to do woodwork, hobbies, crafts and things. I just finished a windmill.

In the Summer of 1958 an event occurred in my life which enabled me to help others in a very meaningful way, often saving them a lot of money, and was a source of enjoyment and satisfaction to me. This event occurred in a rather unusual way as I will now describe.

One afternoon my father asked me to accompany him to his homestead on Diamond Mountain. While in route, he told me that he had a man named Leonard Horrocks witch (divine) for water on his property where we were going. I had heard of people doing this, but didn't believe it. I said “

Dad, surely you don't believe in that, it is ridiculous.” Dad informed me that he did indeed believe it and we had a rather interesting discussion about it. Dad becoming more exercised in his emotions all of the time. We arrived at the spot on his property where the underground water was supposed to be. Dad got out of the pickup, left the door open and the motor running, took a pocket knife from his pocket, cut a forked stick from a serviceberry bush, took the stick into his hands and started to walk. Nothing happened. He said, “Here (handing me the stick) you try it.” At this point I could see that it would be well to humor him. I asked him how to hold it and he showed me. I started to walk and the stick started to twist in my hands, I couldn't hold it. I felt like throwing the stick and running away. It was here that I learned that I had a gift previously unknown to me.

A short time later I told someone about it and they said they were going to drill a water well and would I come and check for water. I did and they got a good well.

Word spread like wildfire in a sea of dry prairie grass. Soon I was swamped with calls to find water for people. I haven't kept track, but I have done a numerous amount of this with a very high rate of success. I have never charged anyone a cent for this activity. There are so many different incidents, I will tell only a few.

One day a lady came to me and she was in tears. She and her husband had drilled a well with a dry hole resulting. Would I come and check? I analyzed the situation and suggested they move about thirty feet north and drill. They did and got a good well. Another time a man came and said he had spent \$3000.00 on a dry hole, would I come. I again went over it and suggested a spot a short distance away. I told him it was so deep that I wouldn't even guess as to depth, but that I thought there was water. The driller was there and he said "I'll drill where he says to, if we get water, you pay me for both holes, if we don't, you pay only for the one that is dry." The man said OK. They drilled and got water. He paid for both holes.

Another occasion I pinpointed a location and suggested they drill there. The driller came and drilled down into the blue shale formation. He told the lady he didn't want to go further because he never got water below that point. She told him that I said water was there to keep drilling. He did and got water and he exclaimed that miracles still happen.

One oil company flew me to Wyoming twice to look for water and were appalled when I told them no charge.

On one occasion, we were visiting our daughter in Minnesota and we went up on Lake Superior fishing. The skipper on the fishing boat told us he was building a home and was going to drill a well. My daughter volunteered my services and I went and suggested where for him to drill. He got an artesian well.

Recently, one of my friends sold his home and bought another one. He told me he would like to have me locate water for him as good as I had found at his previous home. Unfortunately, I could not locate water anywhere I thought he could drill.

I have had innumerable people ask me if I remember when I came and witched for them. Most of them I didn't even remember. The ones I do remember would fill more pages if listed.

It has been a gratifying experience to help in this way.

Many have asked me to teach them to do it. I tell them that we can determine in a few seconds whether or not they have the gift.

My guess is that ninety nine percent of the people who want to do it, do not have the gift. I cannot explain what it is. I have learned many things pertaining to doing it, which have helped refine what I am doing. I think there is an electromagnetic relationship between myself and moving water. It does not work for me on dormant water.

Many times I have demonstrated what happens on a surface moving stream. The stick always turns down exactly on the edge of the water depending on from which direction I approach it. I have to think what I am looking for. If I have located an underground stream, I can then again in the same manner cross the same area only thinking I am looking for something else and nothing happens.

On water the unseen force is so strong, I have had divining forked sticks break in my hands (many times).

This gift and using it freely to help not only myself and family, but also so many others, has added a dimension to my life which has been satisfying and enjoyable.

The only thing that I can say is that is one of the gifts that God has given to me. None of my children can do it except my youngest daughter, Aleisha, nor can my wife do it. Neither of my parents could do it.

EC: That is very interesting.

MB: I don't have any really outstanding hobbies only I do like to make afghans and I have great collections of humming birds. I have a curio full there and in the other room so that's kind of been my hobby.

GB: You've always had something going. She made baskets. She'd get baskets and cover them with pine cones and they were beautiful. That was a big deal for awhile.

MB: Yeah, we've had some good hobbies. You kind of down size your life a little bit with all of these things that you put into your home, you don't have a place to put them anymore.

EC: Is there anything you've learned from your life's experiences?

MB: I hope we've learned a lot from our experiences. Sometimes you really want to pass them on to your children and you do pass some of them on, but you also realize that they have to have their own experiences to grow and develop. I think any of our experiences have either helped us or we've learned from them in some way. We've had a lot of different life experiences.

GB: Well, yes, my dad always told me, he said, "If you can't pay for it, don't get it." He instilled that in me to the extent that I just found it all most impossible to go into debt. And as a result of that, we have worked things to where we have never made a payment in our life on any one of the three houses that we've had here in Vernal. We have never made a house payment. I don't say that boasting. I've learned that one point in life I thought I knew a whole lot. As life was unfolded, I realized how very little that I really do know. We've tried to teach our kids to be honest and fair, and I've tried to do that ourselves in our lives. I've learned that if we want to be treated well we need to treat people well. We need to be tolerant with people. Sometimes I need to work on that.

MB: I might say one thing. One of the experiences that we learned in Canada on our mission up there was the fact that there were so many nationalities. There were thirteen different nationalities in our ward. We learned to love those people. In our early years we hadn't been around a lot of different nationalities, and we learned to love these people. So, that was another experience that we learned that was valuable to us in our lives. Our minds are more open to people and their cultures and their problems and what ever. We just have understanding for them a little better.

EC: Yes, in Vernal and other small towns like this, we are kind of sheltered from other nationalities.

GB: We have been, definitely have been. As a youth, for what reason I don't know, I had a fear of Orientals. I don't know why. But there were many Orientals in Canada. I come to just love

those people. We have been in there homes, we've eaten in their homes. I sat in Priesthood meeting between a Chinese man and a Indonesian man and I felt just as comfortable as if I'd been sitting between two of our people here. It was just absolutely a revelation to see all those different people come together from the south sea islands, and from Europe, from Scotland and France, Japan, China, Indonesia, Philippines, just to name a few. I've learned to respect and listen to the opinions of others and how they feel and not pass judgement based on what I think I know. But, that there is value in what others think. While I may not have thought so at first, I've come to realize that there is, that they have a lot to offer. So, hopefully we've gained something as we've gone through this life that way.

EC: You've left your children with a good legacy and a good example of how to live your life.

MB: Well, we hope that they've taken a few lessons, but we also look back and think well maybe we should have done this and this. But at that point we didn't, and we have to accept the things that we did. We're grateful for the lessons we've learned. We're just very happy with our family.

GB: I don't think that any of us, if we had things to do over, we'd do them differently but that's the learning process. It depends on what we do with it. If we don't put it to our advantage and benefit. Probably, like she said the one of the biggest things we've learned is the brotherhood of men and sisterhood of women, regardless of nationality. You get to know them and they're all human beings and they all have emotions and feelings and so many of them have good hearts and would do anything for you.

EC: Is there any last thing you would like to add, or how you'd like to end your oral history?

MB: Well, we hope we still have some good years a head of us.

GB: As we get older, we realize that we're in the sunset of life so to speak. I thought so often lately what a marvelous life it is and has been. We need to look for the good and be positive and not be overcome by all the evil thing's that are before us constantly and that go in the world. Sometimes it's hard but we need to be positive and we need to be happy. We weren't created to be otherwise I don't think.